

## Solar Physicist

**Job Req ID:** 14946

**Closing Date:** 29 March 2022

**Publication:** Internal & External

**Vacancy Type:** Fixed-Term

**Date Posted:** 15 February 2022

Vacancy in the Directorate of Science.

ESA is an equal opportunity employer, committed to achieving diversity within the workforce and creating an inclusive working environment. We therefore welcome applications from qualified candidates irrespective of gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, beliefs, a disability or other characteristics. Applications from women are encouraged.

This post is classified A2-A4 on the Coordinated Organisations' salary scale and is for a limited duration of two years.

### Location

ESTEC, Noordwijk, Netherlands

### Description

The European Space Agency maintains a world-leading Science Programme with missions in solar and heliospheric physics, planetary science, astrophysics and fundamental physics. The Department for Science and Operations (SCI-S), within ESA's Directorate for Science and Operations, hosts the scientists and engineers that oversee the space missions from study to end operations; it develops the science operation systems for the missions and conducts the science operations in flight; it archives and curates their data during operations and beyond. The main objective of the department is to maximise the scientific return of the missions for the benefit of humankind.

You will be assigned to the post of Solar Physicist for the Solar Orbiter mission. You report hierarchically to the Head of the Solar System Section (H/SCI-SCP). Functionally you will work closely with the Solar Orbiter Project Scientist who will provide guidance on the prioritisation of the day-to-day tasks.

Solar Orbiter, launched in February 2020, is the first medium-class mission of ESA's Cosmic Vision programme and is exploring the connection between the Sun and heliosphere by combining remote-sensing observations of the Sun with in situ measurements of the heliosphere. Solar Orbiter's Nominal Mission Phase will commence in November 2021, with the first close solar encounter in March 2022. The mission is in an elliptical orbit around the Sun with perihelia as low as 0.28 au, and with increasing inclination up to more than 33° with respect to the solar equator.

### Duties

Providing scientific expertise and support to the Solar Orbiter mission in the field of solar physics.

hand;

- ensuring that the maximum scientific return from a mission is maintained as a target within technical, financial, programmatic, and safety constraints;
- preparing and disseminating relevant scientific documentation;
- promoting the mission to the wider scientific community via conferences and electronic means, and supporting broader Directorate and Agency communications outreach and education activities;

Actively pursuing personal scientific research, preferably in the area of solar physics, and participating in the research activities of the department.

### **Technical competencies**

Active researcher in a relevant field of space science

Knowledge of the latest developments in research and facilities in the relevant field

Knowledge and experience in scientific space missions and payloads

Experience in coordinating the scientific community and managing multiple interfaces at the international level

Experience in promoting science to the wider scientific community and general public

### **Behavioural competencies**

Result orientation

Operational efficiency

Fostering cooperation

Relationship management

Continuous improvement

Forward thinking

### **Education**

PhD in solar physics or space sciences is required.

### **Additional requirements**

Further assets for this position include the following:

Experience in operations of solar physics instrumentation; experience in operations of ground-based solar physics facilities.

### **Other information**

For behavioural competencies expected from ESA staff in general, please refer to the [ESA Competency Framework](#).

The working languages of the Agency are English and French. A good knowledge of one of these is required. Knowledge of another Member State language would be an asset.

The Agency may require applicants to undergo selection tests.

At the Agency we value diversity and we welcome people with disabilities. Where possible, we seek to accommodate individuals with disabilities by providing the necessary support at the workplace. The Human Resources Department can also provide assistance during the recruitment process. If you would like to discuss this further please contact email [contact.human.resources@esa.int](mailto:contact.human.resources@esa.int).

-----  
-----

Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Canada, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovenia.

According to the ESA Convention, the recruitment of staff must take into account adequate distribution of posts among nationals of the ESA Member States\*. When shortlisting for an interview, priority will first be given to internal candidates and secondly external candidates from under-represented or balanced Member States (<https://esamultimedia.esa.int/docs/careers/NationalityTargets.pdf>)

In accordance with the European Space Agency's security procedures and as part of the selection process, successful candidates will be required to undergo basic screening before appointment.

Recruitment will normally be at the first grade in the band (A2); however, if the candidate selected has little or no experience, the position may be filled at A1 level.

\*Member States, Associate Members or Cooperating States.